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INNOVATION™

Anne Rice's
THE QUEEN
OF THE DAMNED

1



I'M THE VAMPIRE LESTAT--REMEMBER ME? ROCK STAR--WRITER!

MY ALBUM WAS A HUGE SUCCESS AND MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY WAS
SELLING WELL WITH BOTH THE LIVING AND THE UNDEAD.

THROUGH MY SONGS AND STORY, I WAS COURTING DISASTER--

--AND IT FOUND ME FOLLOWING THE FIRST LIVE
CONCERT OF THE BAND IN SAN FRANCISCO.

I SURVIVED--OBVIOUSLY.



On The Road To The Vampire Lestat

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Words

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Adapted From The Novel By ANNE RICE
Cover Painting & Art Supervision By DAERICK GROSS, SR.



IT WAS MY OWN KIND WHO TOOK ME SERIOUSLY--WERE INFURIATED AT WHAT I'D DONE AND DECIDED TO PUNISH ME.

OF COURSE I'D COUNTED ON THAT -- AND DREAMED OF THE BATTLES AS THE DAY OF THE CONCERT APPROACHED.

I HAD MY MOMENT OF TRIUMPH BEFORE FIFTEEN THOUSAND SCREAMING FANS--AND TWO OF MY GREATEST IMMORTAL LOVES--

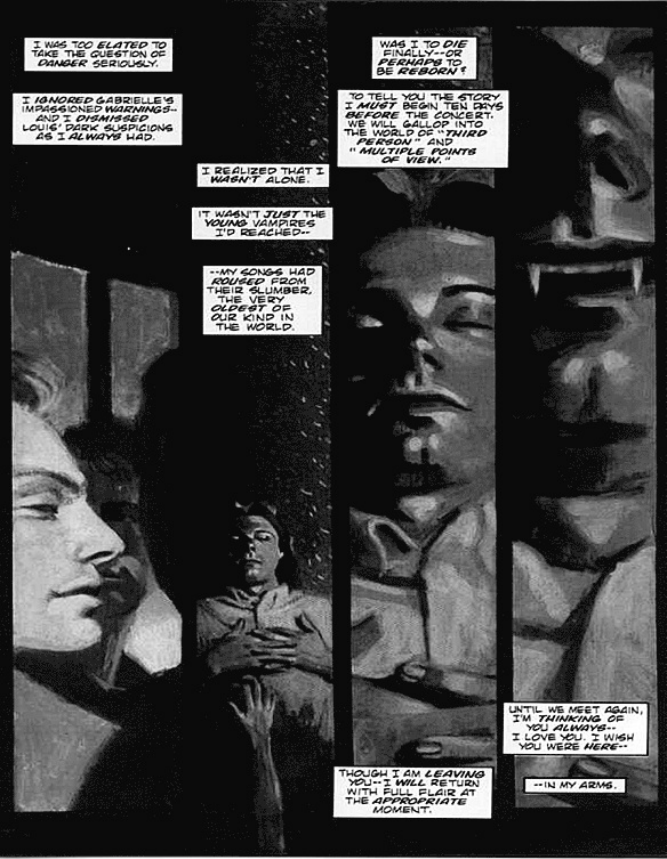
--LOUIS AND GABRIELLE, FROM WHOM I'D BEEN SEPARATED FOR TOO MANY DARK YEARS.

I NEVER REALLY EXPECTED SUCH A CONFRONTATION.



BEFORE THE NIGHT WAS OVER WE'D LICKED THOSE PESKY VAMPIRES WHO TRIED TO PUNISH ME--

--BUT WE'D HAD AN INVISIBLE ALLY IN THE SKIRMISHES.



I WAS TOO ELATED TO
TAKE THE QUESTION OF
DANGER SERIOUSLY.

I IGNORED GABRIELLE'S
IMPASSIONED WARNINGS--
AND I DISMISSED
LOUIE'S DARK SUSPICIONS
AS I ALWAYS HAD.

I REALIZED THAT I
WASN'T ALONE.

IT WASN'T JUST THE
YOUNG VAMPIRES
I'D REACHED--

--MY SONS HAD
ROUSED FROM
THEIR SLUMBER.
THE VERY
OLDEST OF
OUR KIND IN
THE WORLD.

WAS I TO DIE
FINALLY--OR
PERHAPS TO
BE REBORN?

TO TELL YOU THE STORY
I MUST BEGIN TEN DAYS
BEFORE THE CONCERT.
WE WILL GALLOP INTO
THE WORLD OF "THIRD
PERSON" AND
"MULTIPLE POINTS
OF VIEW."

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN,
I'M THINKING OF
YOU ALWAYS--
I LOVE YOU. I WISH
YOU WERE HERE--

THOUGH I AM LEAVING
YOU--I WILL RETURN
WITH FULL FLAIR AT
THE APPROPRIATE
MOMENT.

--IN MY ARMS.

CHILDREN OF DARKNESS

BE ADVISED OF THE FOLLOWING:

BOOK ONE: INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE IS A TRUE STORY — AN ACCOUNT OF BECOMING WHAT WE ARE, OF THE MISERY, AND THE SEARCHING. LOUIS HASN'T GIVEN UP THE SEARCH FOR SALVATION YET — THOUGH ARMAND, THE OLDEST IMMORTAL HE FOUND, COULD TELL HIM NOTHING OF WHY WE ARE OF OF WHO MADE US, NOT VERY SURPRISING, IS IT, VAMPIRE BOYS AND GIRLS? AFTER ALL THERE NEVER WAS A BALTIMORE CATECHISM FOR VAMPIRES.

UNTIL THE PUBLICATION OF

BOOK TWO: THE VAMPIRE LESTAT THIS VERY WEEK, YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT? CHECK WITH YOUR NEAREST MORTAL BOOKSELLER, THEN GO TO THE NEAREST RECORD STORE AND ASK TO SEE THE ALBUM THAT WAS ONLY JUST ARRIVED — ALSO CALLED THE VAMPIRE LESTAT. OR IF ALL ELSE FAILS, SWITCH ON YOUR CABLE TV AND WAIT FOR ONE OF LESTAT'S NUMEROUS ROCK VIDEOS, WHICH BEGAN TO AIR WITH NARSSATING FREQUENCY ONLY YESTERDAY.

WHY IS HE DOING THIS?

WHAT DO HIS SONGS TELL US? IT IS SPILLED OUT IN HIS BOOK. HE HAS NOT ONLY GIVEN US A CATECHISM BUT A BIBLE AS WELL. ENKIL AND AKASHA — RULERS OF THE Nile EVEN BEFORE IT WAS CALLED EGYPT, FORGET THE TALE OF HOW THEY CAME TO BE THE FIRST BLOOD-SUCKERS. THE TRUTH IS WE ARE DESCENDED FROM THEM, AND THERE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE PRIMAL GENERATOR OF ALL OUR POWER, REMAINS IN ONE OR BOTH OF THEIR BODIES. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? TO PUT IT BLANTLY, IF ENKIL AND AKASHA SHOULD EVER WALK HAND IN HAND INTO A FURNACE, WE SHOULD ALL BURN WITH THEM.

AM, BUT THERE'S MORE. THE PAIR HAVEN'T MOVED IN FIFTY CENTURIES / EXCEPT THAT LESTAT CLAIMS TO HAVE AWAKENED THEM BOTH BY PLAYING HIS VIOLIN AT THE FOOT OF THEIR SHRINE. DISMISSING HIS EXTRAVAGANT TALE — THEY HAVEN'T BATED AN EYELASH SINCE THE FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE, THEY'VE BEEN KEPT IN A PRIVATE SKYPT BY A ROMAN NAMED MARCUS ALL THIS TIME. HE CERTAINLY KNOWS WHAT'S BEST FOR US ALL. IT WAS HE WHO TOLD LESTAT NEVER TO REVEAL THE SECRET.

NOT VERY TRUSTWORTHY IS HE? WHAT ARE HIS MOTIVES? QUITE IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW-- EXCEPT THAT THIS FIEND DOES WHAT HE WANTS, WITH REMARKABLE CONSISTANCY.

SO, THAT'S THE GIST: LOUIS-- WHOM NONE CAN FIND HAS CONFIDED OUR DEEPEST MORAL SECRETS, AND LESTAT HAS REVEALED OUR HISTORY AS HE PARADES HIMSELF BEFORE THE MORAL PUBLIC.

NOW THE QUESTION: WHY DO THESE TWO STILL EXIST? WHY HAVE WE NOT DESTROYED THEM ALREADY? THE OUTRAGE EXCEEDS ALL PRECEDENT-- IT CANNOT GO UNPUNISHED.

FURTHER OBSERVATIONS: IF LESTAT'S STORY IS TRUE-- MAY NOT MARLUS COME FORWARD TO PUNISH LESTAT'S DISOBEDIENCE? OR, PERHAPS, THE KING AND QUEEN WILL AWAKEN AT HEARING THEIR NAMES CARRIED ON RAPID WAVES, IF THEY DO-- SHALL WE PROSPER OR WILL THEY DESTROY US ALL? IN ANY CASE, MIGHT NOT THE SWIFT DESTRUCTION OF LESTAT AVERT IT?

THE PLAN: DESTROY THE VAMPIRE LESTAT AND ALL HIS COHORTS, AS SOON AS THEY DARE SHOW THEMSELVES. DESTROY ALL WHO SHOW HIM ALLEGIANCE.

A WARNING: INEVITABLY, THERE ARE OTHER VERY OLD BLOOD DRINKERS OUT THERE. AND SURELY WITH THEIR GREAT POWERS, THEY CAN HEAR LESTAT'S MUSIC. WHAT ANGUENT AND TERRIBLE BEINGS MIGHT BE MOVING SLOWLY AND INEXORABLY TO ANSWER HIS SUMMONS?

COPIES OF THIS DECLARATION HAVE BEEN SENT TO EVERY MEETING PLACE ON THE VAMPIRE CONNECTION-- TO COVEN HOUSES, THE WORLD OVER, BUT YOU MUST TAKE HEED AND SPEAK THE WORD-- LESTAT IS TO BE DESTROYED AND WITH HIM HIS MOTHER, GABRIELLE, AND HIS COHORTS, LOUIS AND ARMAND, AND ALL OTHERS WHO SHOW HIM LOYALTY.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN, VAMPIRE BOYS AND GIRLS. WE SHALL SEE YOU AT THE CONCERT. WE SHALL SEE THAT THE VAMPIRE LESTAT NEVER LEAVES IT.

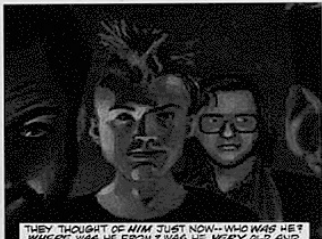
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TEAR LINES

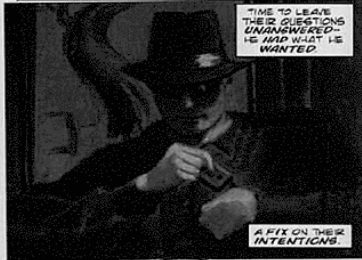


LESTAI, YOU
ARE THE DAMNEDEST
CREATURE I YOU ARE A
BAGAT PRINCE.

TOO MANY YOUNG ONES FOR THIS
MODERN CITY. THEY WOULD HAVE TO
ROAM FAR TO FEED--AND THE
YOUNG ONES MUST KILL.



THEY THOUGHT OF HIM JUST NOW--WHO WAS HE?
WHERE WAS HE FROM? WAS HE VERY OLD AND
STRONG?--WHY WAS HE HERE?



TIME TO LEAVE
THEIR QUESTIONS
UNANSWERED--
HE HAD WHAT HE
WANTED.

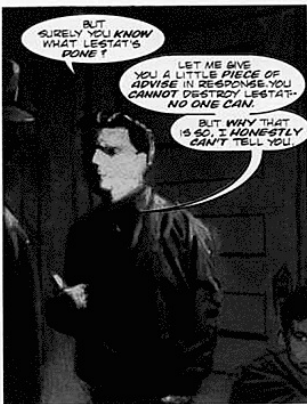
A FIX ON THEIR
INTENTIONS.



WHERE DO
YOU COME FROM,
STRANGER?

WHERE DO YOU STAND
ON THE VAMPIRE LESTAI, ON
THE DECLARATION?

YOU
MUST FORGIVE
ME--I'M GOING
NOW.



BUT
SURELY YOU KNOW
WHAT LESTAT'S
DONE ?

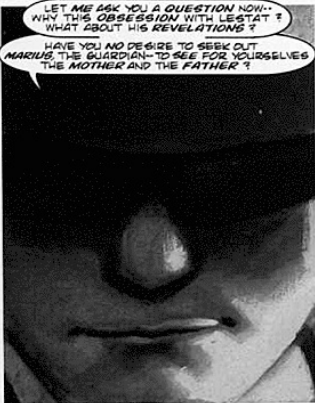
LET ME GIVE
YOU A LITTLE PIECE OF
ADVISE IN RESPONSE. YOU
CANNOT DESTROY LESTAT--
NO ONE CAN.

BUT WHY THAT
IS SO, I HONESTLY
CAN'T TELL YOU.



WATCH OUT FOR THE
VAMPIRE LESTAT--THERE ARE
VERY FEW TRUE IMMORTALS
WALKING THIS EARTH.

HE MAY
BE ONE OF
THEM.



LET ME ASK YOU A QUESTION NOW--
WHY THIS OBSESSION WITH LESTAT ?
WHAT ABOUT HIS REVELATIONS ?

HAVE YOU NO DESIRE TO SEEK OUT
MARIUS, THE GUARDIAN--TO SEE FOR YOURSELVES
THE MOTHER AND THE FATHER ?





YES, WE'RE WAITING FOR HER SON, LESTAT. WHY HAD HE FEARED FOR HER? ALL RIGHT, LESTAT WOULD BE PLEASED, TOO.

IS SHE HERE ALREADY, GABRIELLE, HIS MOTHER?

BUT WHAT OF LOUIS, THE GENTLE ONE?

LOUIS, WHERE ARE YOU?



LOUIS WAS WAITING FOR LESTAT-- FEARFUL FOR LESTAT

SHE WAS THERE-- BUT WHERE, PRECISELY?

GABRIELLE, GABRIELLE



SO, THEY HAD NOT FOUND EACH OTHER, YET--SABRILLE AND LOUIS. BUT THAT WAS ALL RIGHT. LESTAT WOULD BRING THEM TOGETHER SOON ENOUGH.



TWO HUNDRED YEARS SINCE THAT TIME ON THE ISLAND--

--NOW THOSE WHO MUST BE KEPT WERE A FICTION TO THEIR OWN CHILDREN!



THEY WERE WEAK--"THOSE 'CHILDREN OF DARKNESS.'"



IF ONLY HE HAD NOT USED THE NAMES OF MAEL AND PANDORA.



"--ANCIENT AND TERRIBLE BEINGS... MOVING SLOWLY AND INEXORABLY TO ANSWER HIS SUMMONS."



I WANT TO BE HOME. I'VE BEEN AWAY FROM THOSE WHO MUST BE KEPT TOO LONG.

THE CONCERT HAIN'T FOR MANY NIGHTS--I CAN SEE LESTAT THEN, IF I CHOOSE.



THE SOUND WAS TINY, BURIED.
BUT WASN'T THERE CHARM IN
MERELY WATCHING THE ANTICS
OF THE BRAT PRINCE IN
MERCILESS SILENCE?



52. Akasha! Enkil!
KEEP your secrets
KEEP your silence
It is a better gift
than TRUTH. Y



NO RESCUE-
SO I DO NOT
BECOME A TELEVISION
CELEBRITY.

ALL TWELVE OF THEM.
THEY'VE BEEN PLAYING THEM ON
A DOZEN CHANNELS. FINISHED IT
YESTERDAY AFTERNOON.

YOU SERVED
ME WELL. I
THANK YOU.

NO BIG
THING.

YOU
WILL.

THE
SMALLEST KISS,
MY PRECIOUS
ONE.



DO NOT
REMEMBER

GOOD-BYE
NOW.



PERHAPS HIS CHARGES HAD
ALREADY SEEN LESTAT.



FOR YEARS, THEY'D STARED
LIFELESSLY, HAD THERE
BEEN A FLICKER WHEN THEY
HEARD LESTAT, OR SAW
THEIR OWN IMAGE-OR
HEARD THEIR NAMES SUNG
AS IF IN HYMNS?



WE WOULD SOON
FIND OUT.

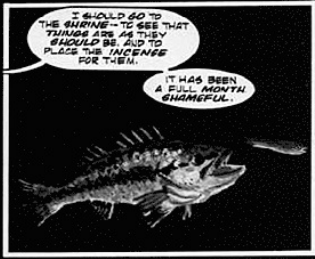
AH, MARIUS, YOU
NEVER DESPAIR, DO YOU?
YOU ARE NO BETTER
THAN LESTAT WITH YOUR
FOOLISH DREAMS.



WHY
DOES THIS GIVE ME
SUCH UNEXPECTED
PLEASURE?



DO WE ALL
LONG TO BLASPHEME--
TO SHAKE OUR FISTS
IN THE FACES OF THE
GODS?



I SHOULD GO TO
THE SHRINE--TO SEE THAT
THINGS ARE AS THEY
SHOULD BE, AND TO
PLACE THE INCENSE
FOR THEM.

IT HAS BEEN
A FULL MONTH
SHAMEFUL.

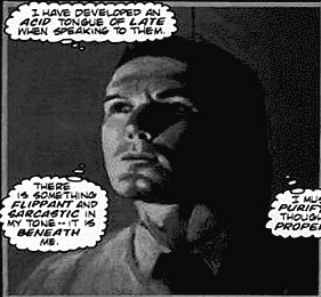


HAVE YOU
MISSED ME, MY
BELOVED AKASHA
AND ENKIL?

AN, THE
GAME POOLISH
GAME.



I WAS TEMPTED TO SAY "WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THEM,
SINCE THEY HAVE SHOWN YOU SUCH FAITH, YOUNG ONE.
I HAVE ONLY HAD THIS BURDEN SINCE THE DAWN OF
THE CHRISTIAN ERA. I AM TIRED NOW."



I HAVE DEVELOPED AN
ACID TONGUE OF LATE
WHEN SPEAKING TO THEM.

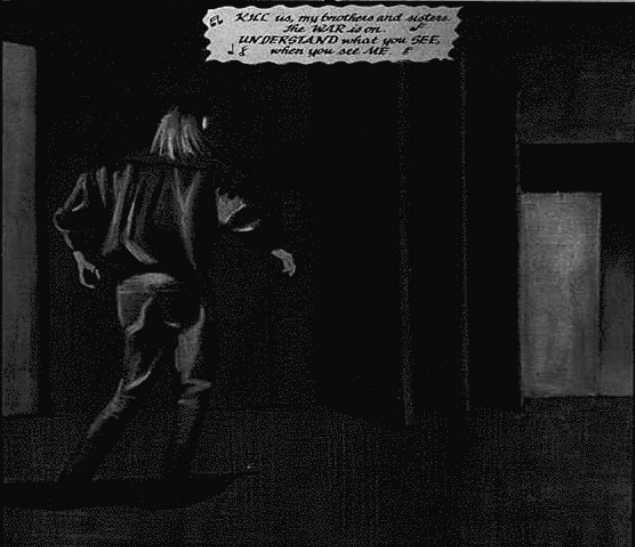
THERE
IS SOMETHING
FLIPPANT AND
SARCASTIC IN
MY TONE--IT IS
BENEATH
ME.

I MUST
PURIFY MY
THOUGHTS
PROPERLY.



AH,
I HEAR
LESTAY
SINGING
NOW.

BUT WAIT--
THE SOUND IS
TOO LOUD!



KILL us, my brothers and sisters.
The WAR is on.
UNDERSTAND what you SEE,
when you see ME. F

HE FELT NOT FEAR-BUT
RAW ANTICIPATION.



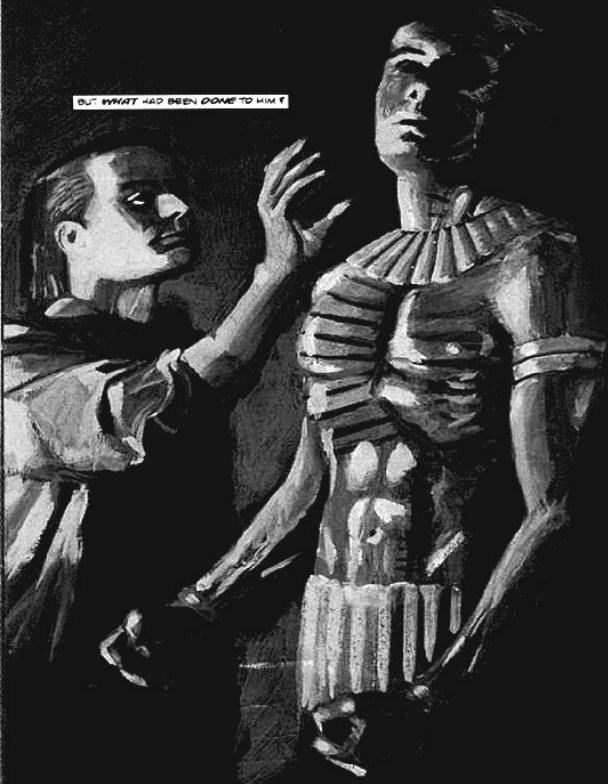
MARIUS, LOOK
CAREFULLY. EVEN
YOUR SENSES ARE NOT
INFALLIBLE.



ALL RIGHT,
MARIUS. PROCEED
SLOWLY.



BUT WHAT HAD BEEN DONE TO HIM?



OUR KING IS
DESTROYED,
OUR FATHER.

BUT I LIVE.
I BREATHE.

SHE WAS THE FIRST-SHE
CONTAINS THE PRIMAL POWER.

AND SOMEONE
HAS TAKEN
HER!



WHO
HAS DONE
THIS?





YOU'VE
SERVED ME WELL--
AND I THANK
YOU.



AH, MARQUE, YOU
NEVER DESPAIR, DO
YOU? YOU ARE NO BETTER
THAN LÉSTAT WITH YOUR
FOOLISH DREAMS.

WITH MY OWN WORDS
SHE MOCKS ME.
NOW I HATE HER!

AND SHE KNOWS



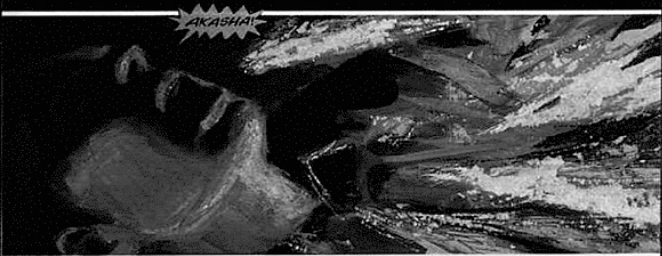
MY DEAR
SERVANT--YOU
HAVE NEVER HAD
THE POWER TO
STOP ME.



WHAT DO YOU
WANT? WHAT DO YOU
MEAN TO DO?

YOU MUST
FORGIVE ME--

--I'M
GOING
NOW.





DANGER
LESTAT. BEWARE.
WE ARE ALL IN
DANGER.

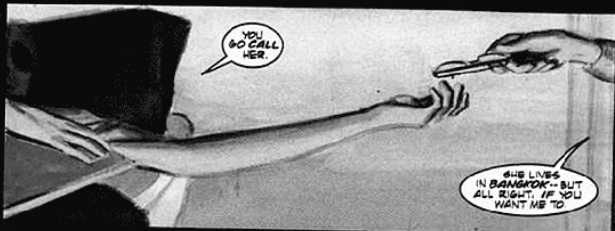


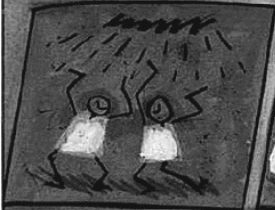
AH, THE *BLESSED* SUN.

THE WOMEN—HOW *LOVELY*.



BUT WHAT IS IT—THAT
THING BENEATH THE
LEAVES ON THE ALTAR ?





IN PALESTINE--
MOUNT CARMEL--



--AND IN PERU, WALK
A WORLD AWAY.



BERLIN- DATED 4000 B.C. THE
INSCRIPTION FROM THE SUMERAM READ-
"THE LEGEND OF THE TWINS"

IN LONDON AND
MANCHESTER..

MY COLLEAGUES CALL
ME A "CRAZY", YOU KNOW
WHY DO YOU NOT ?

IT IS NO MATTER, BUT
THE PERUVIAN DISCOVERIES
ARE MY INTEREST I SHALL
HAVE UNLIMITED FUNDS
AVAILABLE TO YOU TO CONTINUE
THE SEARCH THERE

DECADES PASSES AND
HE FOUND NOTHING.

YET HIS PATRON REMAINED
LOYAL-- SETTING UP A TRUST
THAT PAID FOR HIS DAUGHTER'S
EDUCATION AND ALLOWED HIM
TO LIVE COMFORTABLY.

CALL HER!

ALL RIGHT,
FATHER.



I KNOW WHAT
THEY DID TO THEM--
I'VE SEEN IT. IT WAS
SACRILEGE!

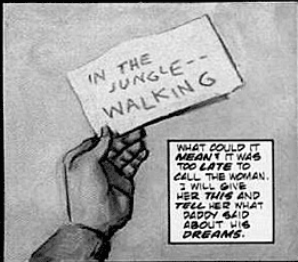
FATUED, CALM
YOURSELF. SHE'S COMING--
SHE LIVES IN BURMA NOW.
SHE WANTS TO HEAR ABOUT
YOUR DREAMS



THE DREAMS
WILL START AGAIN.
AFTER DARK--THE
WHOLE TRAGEDY
WILL START
AGAIN.



OH,
DADDY.



IN THE
JUNGLE--
WALKING

WHAT COULD IT
MEANT IT WAS
TOO LATE TO
CALL THE WOMAN.
I WILL GIVE
HER THIS AND
TELL HER WHAT
DADDY SAID
ABOUT HIS
DREAMS.

The Short Happy Life of Baby Genes and the Fang Gang

FIVE NIGHTS OUT OF GUN BARREL CITY-- THE FANG GANG WAS IN TROUBLE--SHE KNEW IT.

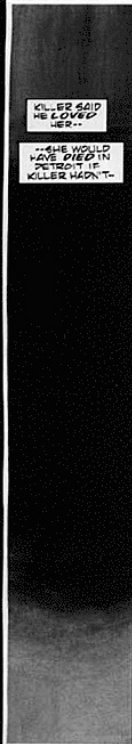
THEY HADN'T MET HER SOUTH OF DALLAS--AND SHE'D WAITED TWO NIGHTS IN THE GRAVEYARD.

SHE WAS LONELY--AND THAT DAMNED DREAM! PRETTY RED-HAIRED LADIES AND THE TERRIBLE THINGS THAT WENT DOWN.

THEY WERE ALL GOING OUT TO SAN FRANCISCO TO THE CONCERT--KILLER AND DAVIS WOULD NEVER HAVE DUMPED HER.

KILLER SAID HE LOVED HER--

--SHE WOULD HAVE DIED IN DETROIT IF KILLER HADN'T--



THE DOCTOR DID IT ALL
RIGHT. THE *BABY* WAS GONE.
BUT HE *CUT* SOMETHING AND
I WAS DYING--

--THAT'S HOW I
KNEW THAT KILLER
WAS A DEAD GUY.



AIN'T YOU
CUTE, LITTLE
GIRL!

SUDDENLY I WAS BACK
IN MY BODY--FULL OF
SOMETHING WARMER AND
BETTER THAN A HORSE.

YOU'RE NOT
GOING TO DIE,
BABY JENOS, NOT
EVER!



THE GUYS HERE
WEAR SUITS AND
CALL THEMSELVES
'VAMPIRES'--
THERE'S ONE OF
THESE HOUSES IN
EVERY CITY.

YOU GOTTA
KNOW WHERE
IT IS-- AND
STAY AWAY.



WHY?-- BECAUSE TO THEM, WE'RE ROGUES. THEY GOT RULES AND THEY WANT TO RUN THINGS.



THERE'S A LOT OF BAGGAGE TO THIS BIG-CITY LIFE-- BUT WE'RE FREE.

THEY DON'T THINK WE HAVE A RIGHT TO BE DEAD. LIKE WHEN THEY MAKE A NEW VAMPIRE THEY HAVE LIKE THIS BIG CEREMONY.



YOU MEAN LIKE A WEDDING?

NOT EXACTLY-- MORE LIKE A FUNERAL.

THE POINT IS, BABY JENKS, THAT THEY'RE SPREADING IT AROUND THAT THEY'RE GONNA GET THE VAMPIRE LESTAT THE NIGHT OF THE CONCERT

BUT, YA KNOW WHAT? THEY'RE READING HIS BOOK LIKE IT WAS THE BIBLE-- USING HIS LANGUAGE--STUPID.

"THEY'LL NEVER GET LESTAT-- NO WAY, MAN. FLAT OUT IMPOSSIBLE. IT'S BEEN TRIED. THAT IS ONE CAT THAT IS UTTERLY AND COMPLETELY IMMORTAL!"





WOW, IF YOU EVER HAVE TROUBLE WITH A BIG-CITY VAMPIRE--YOU JUST HEAD FOR A VAMPIRE BAR. NO ONE CAN HURT YOU IN THERE.

BUT I'M NOT OLD ENOUGH TO GET INTO A BAR.

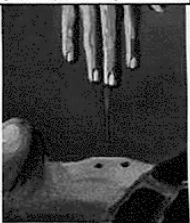
YOU FIND ONE, BABY JENKS, AND GIVE 'EM THE OLD EVIL EYE AND SAY "LET ME IN."

KILLER AND DAN'S TAUGHT HER EVERYTHING--

--ABOUT BLOOD. YUM.



ABOUT HOW, IF YOU COULDN'T GET RID OF A BODY, YOU COULD--



--HIDE THE TRUE CAUSE OF DEATH.



WE'RE ALL AN UNBROKEN LINE OF BLOOD COMING DOWN FROM THE KING AND QUEEN--THOSE WHO MUST BE KEPT.



LOOK, THERE'S SOMETHING I GOTTA GO BACK IN SAN BARCEL CITY. WILL YOU WAIT FOR ME?

YOUR PARENTS, HUH? SURE.

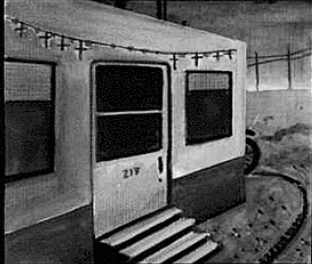
DO WHAT YOU GOTTA BACK HERE, SAY, TOMORROW NIGHT?

YEAH--GOOD. THANKS, GUYS. TOMORROW, RIGHT?

AND THE REASON YOU GOTTA KEEP THEM IS THAT IF YOU DESTROY THEM--YOU DESTROY US ALL.

BABY JENKS JUST HAD TO
GET HER PARENTS BEFORE
THE GANG HEADED OUT WEST.

WELCOME TO
GUN BARREL CITY
WE SHOOT STRAIGHT
WITH YOU.



NOW, BABY JENKS HAD ALWAYS HATED
HER MOTHER--DIDN'T SHE KNOW
HOW UGLY THOSE THINGS WERE?



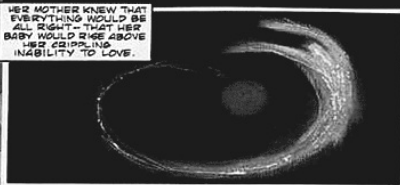
AND ALL SWEETNESS--CHURCH,
AND GOD, AND PUTTING UP WITH
HER HUSBAND'S DRINKING AND
TURNING THE OTHER CHEEK?





DIE, YOU
STUPID BITCH, DIE.
I'M NOT SLAMMING
YOU AGAIN.

LIKE HER MOTHER KNEW EVERYTHING--ABOUT GOOD
AND BAD AND HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS TO REALLY LOVE.
NOT PREACHER STUFF--IT WAS GIGANTIC!



HER MOTHER KNEW THAT
EVERYTHING WOULD BE
ALL RIGHT--THAT HER
BABY WOULD RISE ABOVE
HER CRIPPLING
INABILITY TO LOVE.

SOMETHING HAPPENED--LIKE
BABY JENKS KNEW HER
MOTHER'S THOUGHTS.



EVERYTHING WAS SO
BEAUTIFUL. HER MOTHER
KNEW THAT--AND FORGAVE
HER EVERYTHING.

POOR BABY JENKS--
EVERYTHING WAS
BEAUTIFUL AND
SHE DIDN'T KNOW.



IT WAS GOOD TO BE A VAMPIRE--
GOOD TO BE SO STRONG.



GO DOWN, YOU
BASTARD!



SHE'D BURIED
HIM ALIVE.



